

# Proverbs 10:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

## Analysis

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The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom, but the froward tongue shall be cut out. Righteous speech produces wisdom benefiting the community; perverse speech will be eliminated. The graphic imagery of tongue-cutting emphasizes divine judgment on destructive speech. While not prescribing literal mutilation, the verse warns that perverse speakers will be silenced - through death if not repentance.

## Historical Context

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Tongue-cutting was ancient Near Eastern punishment for false witness and slander. The imagery warns that destructive speech brings severe consequences, ultimately divine judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Is your speech producing wisdom that builds up or perverseness that tears down?
2. What speech patterns need to be 'cut out' from your communication?

## Interlinear Text

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תַּחַטָּא וְלִשְׁתַּחַטְתִּי  
The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom tongue but the froward  
H6310 H6662 H5107 H2451 H3956 H8419

תַּחַטָּא  
shall be cut out  
H3772

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 37:30** (Righteousness): The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

**Proverbs 10:13** (Parallel theme): In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.